For Immediate Release
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Environmental Notification

DEQ TO CONDUCT WATER SURVEY ON BAYOU SEGNETTE

(Baton Rouge) - - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will begin installing electronic monitoring equipment today that will be utilized in conjunction with a water sampling survey on Bayou Segnette. The survey is conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect the waterbody. The survey will begin Tuesday, May 20, 2003 and end Thursday, May 22, 2003. The concentration will cover the area from the Lapalco Boulevard Bridge to the Intracoastal Waterway.

The equipment will be mounted on white PVC poles or red buoys. Citizens asked not to tamper with the equipment. During the survey, a bright red, non-toxic dye will be injected into the water. Citizens who notice the red coloration of the water should not be alarmed. The waterbody will return to its normal state by the end of the day. The dye is used to determine flow and distribution patterns of the bayou. These patterns are used to establish sampling points for the survey to aid in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that can be released into a waterbody without causing it to become impaired and/or violate state water quality standards. TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the bayou that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact Kirk Manuel with DEQ at 225.765.2511 or visit the website at www.deq.state.la.us/technology/tmdl.

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